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RICHMOND, VA., WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1915.—FOURTEEN PAGES.

WEATHER  
PAGE 9 — FAIR

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## R. F. & P. WILLING TO LOWER TRACKS ON MYERS'S PLAN

Offers to Depress Belt Line,  
but Only to Depth of  
Twelve Feet.

SIGNS POINT TO DEATH  
OF OVERHEAD CROSSING

Pollard Files Opinion Holding  
That Road Alone Must Pay  
for Reconstruction.

PULLER CRITICIZES CHAMBER

Improves Committee Not to Advise  
With It, Fearing Repetition of  
Post-Office Fate.

Ultimate agreement between the city and the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac Railroad Company on a plan for depressing the Belt Line to a depth to be determined and the abandonment of the company's overhead-crossing scheme was foreclosed last night following a storm session of the Council Committee on Streets, called to consider further the West End crossing problem.

This turn in the Belt Line controversy followed developments of relatively epochal character. Summarized briefly, these were:

The filing with the committee of a lengthy statement by the Administrative Board setting forth its unalterable opposition to the company's overhead-crossing plan and declaring without reservation the Hankins depressed-track plan.

RAILROAD MUST BEAR

WHOLE COST, SAYS POLLARD

The submission of an opinion by the city attorney, in which he holds that the statute seeking to divide the expense of the relocating and regrading the tracks between the company and the city is invalid, so far as cities are concerned, and that an ordinance requiring the railway company to lower or elevate its tracks, so as to avoid surface or grade crossings, will be sustained by the courts without placing any part of the expense on the city.

The statement of President W. H. White, of the railroad company, that its only opposition is first to a grade crossing and second to depressing the line tracks, as provided for in the Hankins plan, and that he is willing to recommend to the board of directors that it approve the so-called Myers plan providing for an underground crossing and a depression of the tracks of about twelve feet—as against the depression of twenty-one feet provided by the Hankins plan.

Chairman Pollock's statement that he has virtually made up his mind that the only permanent solution of the Belt Line problem lies in depressing the tracks, and that only as to the amount of this depression did he seek further counsel.

Committeeman Puller's prediction that even should the committee consider the Belt Line matter until dawn, the city of Richmond will never consent to an overhead crossing in any form.

SCORCHING INDICEMENT

OF RAILROAD'S POLICY

These were the high spots in a session which occupied a little less than two hours. Towards the end of the meeting Alderman Puller, winding up a scorching indictment of the railroad company's policy throughout the Belt Line controversy, offered a resolution terminating further negotiations with the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac Railroad Company and instructing the city attorney to proceed under the resolution authorizing him to acquire through the usual legal channels the easement over the Belt Line right-of-way needed for the extension of Monument Avenue westwardly.

The company, said Mr. Puller, has given abundant proof that it does not intend to agree with any proposal for the adjustment of the Belt Line crossing problem, that does not suit its own ends, and it was futile for the city to deal with it any longer. It was time, he said, for the city to assert its right to deal with this problem in its own interest, and irrespective of the interests of the railroad company.

POLLOCK OPPOSES

PRECIPITATE ACTION

Chairman Pollock took the floor with a speech against the precipitate action contemplated by Mr. Puller's resolution. While he had come to the conclusion that the depressing of the Belt Line was the proper solution, he said, he wanted further information as to the proper amount of depression. Furthermore, he said, he was willing to decide the matter until the railroad company has had a full opportunity to present its case and to answer the points brought out in the statement of the Administrative Board—an opportunity that the company had requested.

Councilman English shared the same view, and moved as a substitute for Mr. Puller's motion that the committee adjourn to Monday night to hear from the company.

Councilman Hinton, Jr., and President William H. White, of the Richmond, Fredericksburg and Potomac, told the committee that it would be impossible for either to come earlier than December 17, and Mr. English amended his motion to provide for an adjournment to Monday night, December 20, at 8 o'clock. The amended motion was carried.

Before closing the debate on the Puller motion, Chairman Pollock called

(Continued on Second Page.)

## Ford Asks Congress to Support His Plans

ON BOARD STEAMSHIP OSCAR II. AT SEA (via wireless), December 7.—Henry Ford has sent wireless message to Congress, asking support for his plans to end the European war.

Governor L. B. Hanna, of North Dakota, sent a wireless message to Secretary of State Lansing, urging him to provide members of the Ford peace party with passports which will enable them to visit belligerent countries.

## STANDARD OIL TANKER IS SUNK BY SUBMARINE

Vessel Flying American Flag Is Sent  
to Bottom Near Tripoli.

ANOTHER MAKES ESCAPE

Petrolite, Also Property of Standard  
Oil, Fired On by Boat Carrying  
Austrian Colors, and One Member  
of Crew Is Injured.

ROME, December 7.—The American oil steamer Communiawp has been sunk by a submarine in the Mediterranean near Tripoli. No information has been received concerning the crew or the nationality of the submarine.

The steamer Communiawp was recently held by the Italian government at Genoa, but was allowed to sail for her destination on December 2, owing to representations made to the government by the American embassy at Rome.

The Communiawp was owned by the Standard Oil Company, of New Jersey, and sailed from New York on October 27 for Egypt.

OIL TANKER PETROLITE

SHOT BY SUBMARINE

WASHINGTON, December 7.—Word that the American Standard Oil tanker Petrolite was shot on Sunday in the Eastern Mediterranean by a large submarine flying the Austrian flag came to the Navy Department today in a cablegram from the cruiser Des Moines at Cananea, Island of Crete. One man on the tanker was slightly injured.

This information was turned over to the State Department, where it was said that no action would be taken pending the receipt of further details. No report had been received by the government to-night of the sinking of the Standard Oil tanker Communiawp by a submarine off the coast of Tripoli, reported in press dispatches from Rome.

It was pointed out that the attitude of the United States would depend entirely upon whether the tankers were attacked without warning or attempted to escape after being called upon to submit to visit and search. In the case of the Petrolite it appeared that she not only tried to escape, but actually did so.

When the dispatch from the Des Moines arrived officials thought they had the explanation of the mysterious wireless message picked up at Athens saying an American vessel was being attacked by a submarine south of the Island of Crete. It was recalled, however, that that message reached Athens on Saturday morning, while the Petrolite did not encounter the submarine until Sunday.

If the Communiawp was sunk near the coast of Tripoli, she must have been some 200 miles or more from the point where the call picked up at Athens was said to have originated.

The Des Moines reported that the following message had been picked up on Sunday:

"Steamship Petrolite, Alexandria to New York, attacked by a submarine this (Sunday) morning at 4:20 o'clock, longitude 22° 25' north, latitude 28° 58' west. One man not seriously injured."

FLIES AUSTRIAN FLAG;

LOOKS LIKE CRUISER

The commander of the cruiser said he had obtained from the commander of the Petrolite the additional information that the submarine which attacked the steamer flew the Austrian flag and "looked like a big cruiser." The man who was wounded was struck by a fragment of an explosive shell fired from the submarine. The attack took place about 250 miles west of Alexandria and just off the western end of the Island of Crete, distant about 120 miles.

The Navy Department promptly transmitted the report to the State Department, where it was said that nothing could be done until further facts were supplied. It was inferred from the dispatch that the Petrolite had been fired upon during the course of a successful attempt to escape. If her captain disregarded a demand to submit to search, there probably will be no attempt to make a diplomatic incident out of the case.

Secretary Daniels said he had not instructed the commander of the Des Moines to make any further investigation, and it is assumed that no more will be heard from the Petrolite until she arrives at Gibraltar.

STANDARD OIL COMPANY

HAS NO INFORMATION

NEW YORK, December 7.—The Standard Oil Company had not received any direct word late to-day concerning the attack by a submarine on the company's tank steamer Petrolite in the Mediterranean, as reported in a message from the cruiser Des Moines to the Navy Department. The Petrolite sailed from New York on November 7 for Alexandria, Egypt.

Officials of the export department thought that if the captain of the tanker had communicated with the Des Moines he would not endeavor to report to the New York office unless he touched at some port.

## ST. LOUIS IS NAMED ON SECOND BALLOT

Democratic National Convention  
Will Be Held in Missouri  
City on June 14.

WILSON HEARTILY INDORSED

Resolutions Call for His Renomi-  
nation as Trusted Leader of  
Democracy.

WASHINGTON, December 7.—The Democratic National Convention of 1916 will be held at St. Louis, beginning on Wednesday, June 14, at noon. The Democratic National Convention to-night named the convention city and adopted resolutions calling for the renomination and re-election of Woodrow Wilson as "the trusted leader of national democracy."

Chicago and Dallas contested with St. Louis for the honor of the convention, but St. Louis easily won. It led from the start and won on the second ballot. When the trend of the voting was seen, the Texas city moved that the choice be made unanimous. Dallas held second place on the first ballot, but was displaced by Chicago on the second roll call.

ST. LOUIS TAKES LEAD

WHEN FIRST BALLOT IS CAST

The result of the first ballot was: St. Louis, 25; Dallas, 14; Chicago, 12. On the second ballot the vote was: St. Louis, 28; Chicago, 15; Dallas, 9. The majority for St. Louis was gained on this ballot when John T. McGraw changed West Virginia's vote from Chicago to St. Louis. Then the choice was made unanimous.

It has been customary heretofore for national conventions to begin work on Tuesday. The fact that Tuesday fell on the 12th of the month next year may or may not have had something to do with the decision to begin the proceedings a day later. The official explanation, however, was that the convention would not require more than three or four days to complete its work, and it would not be too late in the week to start on Wednesday.

Political leaders to-night regarded it as practically certain that Chicago would be selected for the Republican convention when the national committee of that party meets here on Tuesday. The date for this convention probably will be late in June.

Each of the three cities contesting for the Democratic convention put in a bid of \$100,000.

WARNING THAT CONVENTION

IS NEEDED IN MISSOURI

St. Louis advocates supplemented their financial inducements by a warning that the convention was needed in Missouri to keep the eighteen electoral votes of that State in the Democratic column. The delegation from Dallas pleaded with the committee to reward the loyal Democracy of the South by sending the convention to the Southern State. The Texas speakers were greeted with enthusiastic cheers by members of their delegation, and the "rebel yell" several times interrupted the proceedings. Chicago based its appeal largely on its climate and its known ability to take care of convention crowds.

The national committee was in session almost continuously from 11:20 this morning until late to-night, completing details of convention arrangements, discussing financial ways and means for the coming campaign and debating various subjects of party interest. The opening of the session was given the atmosphere of a love feast when Thomas J. Pence, of North Carolina, a protégé of Secretary of the Navy Daniels, was elected secretary, and, in a speech of acceptance, declared reports of differences between himself and National Chairman W. P. McComb were entirely without foundation. Mr. Pence, regarded by many as a representative of the administration, said, amid cheers, that he had worked harmoniously with Mr. McComb in the past and purposed to work harmoniously with him in the future.

CHAIRMAN MCComb SAYS

NO CLOUD IS ON HORIZON

Chairman McComb declared there was not a cloud on the Democratic horizon, and that it was the duty of the committee to see that none should gather.

The committee was confronted by two contests which threatened for a time to cause some feeling, but they were settled in a comparatively short time, and the atmosphere seemingly was cleared. Grey Woodson, of Kentucky, was seated in his contest with General W. H. Haldeman, of Louisville, and Will R. King was seated from Oregon in a contest with W. H. Easterly.

A part of the day was taken up in hearing the cause of woman suffrage discussed by representatives of the suffragist organizations and by a body of women in opposition. The committee applauded all the speakers, but there was no effort to place the members on record.

RESOLUTION INDORSES

WILSON ADMINISTRATION

The resolution indorsing the Wilson administration and the Democratic members of the House and Senate who have helped to carry forward his policies was adopted by a standing vote. It follows:

"We congratulate the country on the splendid administration of Woodrow Wilson. Under the most trying circumstances in our history he has steadfastly worked for the cause of peace, and has avoided war, without yielding on well-recognized principles of international law, justice and humanity. He has vindicated the rights of neutrals on the sea, he has upheld the best traditions of his high office and has discharged his trust with such signal fidelity, firmness and efficiency, that he has won the confidence and affection

(Continued on Second Page.)

## PREPARING HARD BLOWS FOR ALLIES

Germany Will Strike in Flanders  
and Southeastern  
Serbia.

GREAT BATTLES IMPENDING

Berlin Plans to Force Action Be-  
fore Anglo-French Troops  
Are Ready.

LONDON, December 7.—Important battles have begun or are impending in Mesopotamia, where the German field marshal, Baron von Der Goltz, has taken command of the Turkish forces and is about to attack the British at Kut-el-Amara. In Southeastern Serbia, where the Bulgarians already have attacked the Anglo-French positions and have been repulsed, on Gallipoli, where, according to Turkish accounts, the allies have taken the offensive, and in Belgium and France, where reports from Holland stated, the Germans have concentrated strong reinforcements and an immense amount of artillery with the object of striking a blow at the allied line in Flanders and Artois.

BATTLES ARE STILL

IN PRELIMINARY STAGE

Except in Serbia, the battles have not developed beyond the preliminary stage, so far as known. Along the Vardar-Cerna-Karasu front in Serbia the Bulgarians already have commenced their attack against the Anglo-French forces, and it is reported that the German army of General von Gallwitz has been reorganized and reinforced and is marching south to take part in the operations.

It is evidently the intention of the Germans to strike hard before the allies, who continue to land troops at Salonik, have completed their preparations. It is reported that the Germans have 40,000 men available. There is no information regarding the Bulgarian or Anglo-French strength, but one report says that all of the allied divisions (nearly 100,000 men) have been landed thus far. The battle, therefore, will be of the greatest importance.

ALL BULGARIAN

ATTACKS ARE REPULSED

According to the French, all the Bulgarian attacks have been repulsed, but the Germans claim that the French were compelled to give up their positions at the junction of the Vardar and Cerna rivers to avoid being enveloped. The situation for the allies is complicated by the attitude of the Greek government. The negotiations at Athens have not yet reached a satisfactory conclusion, and although the Greek King has reaffirmed his neutrality and repeated his assurance that Greek troops will never attack the allies, the situation still causes great anxiety.

The Austrians continue their offensive against the Montenegrins and Serbians, and are following the Serbs into Albania, where the retreat is rendered extremely difficult by cold weather and bad roads. There are said to be 100,000 Serbian troops and 20,000 refugees in Albania, and it is reported that the Serbians are taking with them 40,000 Austrian prisoners who were captured during previous campaigns.

POSITION OF SERBIANS

MADE MORE SERIOUS

The position of the Serbians is rendered even more serious by the success of the Austrian cruiser Novara and destroyers in sinking steamers which had arrived at San Giovanni di Medua with supplies and war material for them.

In view of the probability of Germany asking Great Britain for safe conduct for her attaches, whose recall from the United States has been asked, considerable interest is taken in the action of the German submarine in removing from a Greek steamer the British attaché, Colonel Napier, who was on his way to London from Sofia.

BRIEF SENATE SESSION

Hundreds of Petitions on Various  
Issues Are Presented and Bills  
Introduced.

WASHINGTON, December 7.—Presentation of hundreds of petitions on suffrage, preparedness, peace, exportation of munitions and the introduction of bills and resolutions occupied to-day's brief session of the Senate. Senator Sutherland, Republican, of Utah, introduced the Susan B. Anthony woman suffrage amendment.

PROTECT JAPANESE

Disturbed Conditions in Shanghai Leads  
to Measures to Protect Resi-  
dents and Interests.

TOKYO, December 6 (delayed).—It is understood that Japan, in view of the disturbed conditions in Shanghai, will adopt measures for the protection of Japanese residents and interests there. Several Japanese warships are already on the spot, and the cruiser Tetsuaro, which has left Yokohama, is believed to be bound for Shanghai.

AMERICAN GIRL TO WED

Miss Marjorie Collins, of Cleveland, Will  
Be Bride of Frederick Franklin,  
of England.

(Special Cable to The Times-Dispatch.) LONDON, December 7.—The engagement is announced of Frederick J. Franklin, eldest son of J. Norris Franklin, of Plymouth, Devonshire, and Miss Marjorie Stowe Collins, daughter of the late Walter Stowe Collins, of Cleveland, Ohio.

## PREPAREDNESS URGED; DISLOYALTY DENOUNCED

Submarines Renew Their Activity  
and American Ship Is Sent to Bottom

THE American oil steamer Communiawp has been sunk by a submarine in the Mediterranean near Tripoli. The nationality of the submarine and the fate of the crew are unknown.

The Austrian cruiser Novara, assisted by several destroyers, on December 5 sank three large and two small steamers and five sailing vessels at San Giovanni di Medua, in the Lower Adriatic, where they were discharging war material. An Austrian warship also sent to the bottom the French submarine Fresnel.

Austrian headquarters reports a success south of Plevlje, where Montenegrin troops were repulsed, and south of Novi-Pazar, where they report the capture of many prisoners.

Field Marshal Baron von Der Goltz has assumed command of the Turkish forces in Mesopotamia, and a general offensive against the British at Kut-el-Amara is expected.

Other offensive movements are expected in France and Belgium, where reports state that the Germans have concentrated heavy reinforcements for a probable blow on the allied line in Flanders and Artois.

## PREMIER WARNS JAPAN TO BE AMPLY PREPARED

Count Okuma Tells Diet Not a Day  
Should Be Lost in Reple-  
tion of Navy.

COUNTRY'S FIRST NECESSITY

Economic and Financial Outlook He  
Considers Propitious—Advice to  
China Not Selfish, but Given Solely  
to Safeguard Its Interests.

TOKYO, December 7.—Count Okuma, the Japanese Premier, addressed the Diet to-day. The Premier emphasized the statement that the project for naval repletion which was ratified by the Council of Defense was the first necessity in the present situation of the world.

"Not a day can be lost in carrying out the plan," he declared.

Count Okuma said that he considered the economic and financial outlook propitious.

Baron Ishii, Minister of Foreign Affairs, also addressed the Diet, referring to the question of China allying herself with the entente powers. As to the question of the re-establishment of the monarchy in China, the Foreign Minister said that China contemplated some delay in the execution of its plan, but that he was not at liberty to give the details of China's reply to Japan's request for a postponement of the project. Baron Ishii said that in discussing the matter with the powers he insisted that Japan's advice for a postponement was actuated solely by the desire to safeguard the common interests of China and the powers and was not a selfish interference in domestic affairs at the expense of China.

Referring to the pact whereby the entente allies agree not to make a separate peace, Baron Ishii said Japan joined because her adhesion would demonstrate to the world that the unity and determination of the entente allies were growing stronger, and also would make more definite the common relations of the powers in regard to the conclusion of peace.

AUSTRIANS SINK SHIP

Vienna Announces One French Subma-  
rine, Six Steamers and Other Craft  
Sent to Bottom.

VIENNA, December 7.—The sinking of a French submarine boat, the Fresnel, and six steamers and six large and several small Montenegrin sailing vessels in the lower Adriatic sea off the coast of Albania is related in an official communication issued here to-day. All the vessels were loaded with war material, which they either were trying to land on the Albanian coast or to convey there.

Five of the vessels were sent to the bottom by the Austrian cruiser Novara and Austrian torpedo-boat destroyers in the Gulf of Drin, to the north of Durazzo. They were engaged in discharging munitions. One Italian steamer, armed with three guns, and an Italian motor vessel were sunk while on their way from Brindisi to Durazzo. These were loaded with munitions.

While the Austrians were engaged in sinking these vessels twenty guns on shore bombarded them heavily, but the official report says, without success.

Recent reports have been to the effect that Italian forces have been landed at Avlona, Albania, to enter the Balkan campaign, and to-day's report of the putting ashore of munitions and of artillery attacks from shore against the warships seemingly gives verity to the previous accounts.

DELAYS DUMA'S OPENING

Czar Indefinitely Postpones Assembly  
of Russian Congress and Council  
of Empire.

PETROGRAD (via London), December 7.—Emperor Nicholas has issued a rescript postponing indefinitely the opening of the Duma and the Council of the Empire. This action is taken on the ground that the budget committees of those bodies have not yet completed the preparation of the budget.

SHE ESCAPES KNIFE

Physician Announces That Operation on  
Miss Jane Adams Is Not  
Probable.

CHICAGO, December 7.—Miss Jane Adams probably will not be operated on, Dr. James C. Herrick said to-day in answer to the widely known peace advocate and settlement worker who is suffering from a hemorrhage of the kidney.

## WILSON LASHES U. S. CITIZENS WHO BETRAY COUNTRY

Asks Congress to Enact  
Laws for Punishment of  
Such Traitors.

LARGER ARMY AND NAVY  
HELD UP AS ESSENTIAL

Pan-Americanism Is Proclaimed,  
and Clear Definition of Mon-  
roe Doctrine Given.

MESSAGE WELL RECEIVED

Variety of Subjects Touched, and  
General Comment Is  
Laudatory.

WASHINGTON, December 7.—President Wilson, in his annual address to Congress to-day, dealing mainly with national defense, proclaimed an advanced Pan-Americanism grown from the guardianship of the Monroe Doctrine to the "full and honorable association" of all the Americans.

Although, in the longest address he has delivered to Congress, the President touched upon a variety of subjects, the predominating note was the necessity of a policy of military preparedness to meet the readjustments of the next generation as they will affect the American Continent. He emphasized his point by saying:

"Unless you take it within your view and permit the full significance of it to command your thought, I cannot find the right light in which to set forth the particular matters that lie at the very front of my whole thought as I address you to-day. I mean national defense."

MOST UNMEASURED TERMS HE

HAS USED BEFORE CONGRESS

The point was not overshadowed when the President, in the most unmeasured terms he ever has presented before Congress, declared that Americans by their sympathies for European belligerents have endangered American neutrality. While Congress cheered him loudly, he referred to them as having "poured the poison of disloyalty into the very arteries of our national life" and as those who "would turn in malign reaction against the government and the people who had welcomed and nurtured them." With evidences of deep feeling the President expressed "the even deeper humiliation and scorn which every self-possessed and thoughtfully patriotic American must feel when he thinks of them and of the discredit they are daily bringing upon us."

While the President's outline of the administration plans for the army and navy passed without a ripple of applause, and his references to Pan-Americanism were only punctuated with evidences of approval, Republicans and Democrats alike joined in an emphatic demonstration at his words of condemnation for those he assailed so unreservedly.

OUTLINES HIS VIEWS

ON PAN-AMERICANISM

The President took up Pan-Americanism at the very outset of his message.

"All the governments of America," he said, "stand, so far as we are concerned, upon a footing of genuine equality and unquestioned independence. We retain unabated the spirit which was so frankly put into words by President Monroe. We still mean to make a common cause of national independence and of political liberty in America, but that purpose is now better understood so far as it concerns ourselves."

The moral, the President said, was that the States of America were not hostile rivals, but co-operating friends, and that their association was likely to give them a new significance in world affairs.

"Separated, they are subject to all the cross currents of the confused politics of the world of hostile rivalries," said he. "United in spirit and purpose, they cannot be disappointed in their peaceful destiny. This is Pan-Americanism. It has none of the spirit of empire in it. It is the embodiment, the effectual embodiment, of the spirit of law and independence and liberty and mutual service."

GREAT DEMOCRACIES

NOT SEEKERS AFTER WAR

Great democracies, the President said, are peaceful, not seeking war and without thought of conquest or domination. "But because we demand unmolested development and undisturbed government of our own lives upon our own principles of right and liberty," he said, "we resent, from whatever quarter it may come, the aggression we ourselves will not practice. We insist upon security in prosecuting our self-chosen lines of national development. We do more than that; we demand that also for others. From the first we have made common cause with all partisans of liberty on this side of the sea and have deemed it as important that our neighbors should be free from all outside domination that we ourselves should be free from America as a whole for

(Continued on Eleven)